

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 NEA-09 IO-10 DPW-01 ACDA-05 SAM-01

SAJ-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /095 W

----- 014072

R 030750Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4598

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SW, VS, VN, US

SUBJECT: PALME AND ANDERSSON ADDRESS VIETNAM AT MAY DAY

RALLIES

REF: STOCKHOLM 1935

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. VIETNAM WAS A KEY THEME IN THE TRADITIONAL
MAY DAY DEMONSTATIONS HELD THROUGHOUT SWEDEN. BOTH
PRIME MINISTER PALME, SPEAKING IN GOTENBERG, AND
FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON, ADDRESSING A RALLY IN
KRISTIANSTAD, DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO VIETNAM
IN THEIR SPEECHES. IN STOCKHOLM, THE MAIN SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC RALLY ADDRESSED BY LO CHIEF GUNNAR NEILSEN
CONCENTRATED ON LABOR MARKET QUESTIONS, BUT A RALLY
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HELD BY THE UNITED FNL GROUPS WAS DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY

TO VIETNAM. FAVORED BY PERFECT SPRING WEATHER, SOME 12,000 FNL SUPPORTERS GATHERED IN A FIELD NOT FAR FROM THE EMBASSY TO CHANT ANTI-U.S. SLOGANS. NO EFFORT WAS MADE TO MARCH ON THE EMBASSY ITSELF.

2. IN HIS SPEECH IN GOTENBERG, THE PRIME MINISTER RETURNED TO THE THEME THAT HE HAD USED AT A STOCKHOLM MEETING OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS PARTY IN MID APRIL (REFTEL) I.E. THAT THE WAR IN VIETNAM WILL ENABLE THE U.S. TO "REGAIN ITS CREDIBILITY." ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, PALME COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS: "THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS LOST ITS CREDIBILITY BECAUSE THE WAR WAS LOST IN VIETNAM. BUT IF YOU DRAW THE RIGHT CONCLUSIONS, IT CAN BE THE OTHER WAY AROUND. NOW WHEN THIS ABSURD WAR HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO AN END, NOW WHEN THE SUPPORT FOR CORRUPT REGIMES HAS BEEN STOPPED, THEN THE UNITED STATES FINALLY HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REGAIN ITS CREDIBILITY."

3. PALME CASTIGATED THE BAADER-MEINHOFF TERRORISTS WHO ATTACKED THE WEST GERMAN EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM APRIL 24. AS CARRIED BY THE PRESS, PALME STATED: "THESE PRIMITIVE AND RUTHLESS ASSAILANTS CALL THEMSELVES LEFTISTS AND RADICALS. BUT IN REALITY THEY ARE FASCISTS AND ARE AIDING THE REACTIONARIES AND NO ONE ELSE. AND THEY MUST NOT BY THEIR SENSELESS OUTRAGES FORCE US TO FAIL IN UPHOLDING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF OUR SOCIETIES: RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY, TOLERANCE, LOATHING FOR VIOLENCE." THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO USED THE OCCASION TO REJECT CHARGES THAT HE HAD BEEN TOO OUTSPOKEN IN HIS CRITICISM OF THE CZECH REGIME (STOCKHOLM 2023), COMMENTING, "IF WE SAY THAT PEOPLE ARE PERSECUTED IN THE CLOSED SOCIETIES OF DICTATORSHIPS, WHICH IS TRUE, THEN WE HAVE NO REASON TO PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THE ADMONITIONS OF THE PRUDENT ABOUT OUR CHOICE OF WORDS."

4. PRESS ACCOUNTS OF FOREIGN MINISTER SVEN ANDERSSON'S SPEECH AT KRISTIANSTAD ARE SKETCHY. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO SVENSKA DAGBLADET, ANDERSSON REVEALED THAT THE GOS HAD BEEN ACTIVELY ATTEMPTING IN RECENT WEEKS TO TRY TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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END THE WAR IN VIETNAM, THROUGH CONTACTS WITH "THE PARTIES WHO SIGNED THE PARIS AGREEMENT." SWEDISH DIPLOMATS, HE CONTINUED, HAD BEEN WORKING PRIMARILY WITH THE FRENCH "TO TRY TO START NEGOTIATIONS TO REACH A SOLUTION BASED ON THE PARIS AGREEMENT," ADDING, HOWEVER, THAT "SWEDEN HAS NOT ACTED AS A MEDIATOR."

5. REFERRING TO THE FALL OF THE RVN GOVERNMENT,

ANDERSSON STATED: "THE CONFLICT COULD END ONLY IN ONE WAY. PEOPLE WHO STRIVE FOR FREEDOM AND TO SATISFY THEIR HUNGER CAN NEVER BE DEFEATED BY MILITARY POWER. THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT THE STAND OF THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT ON THE VIETNAM ISSUE. WE HAVE SUPPORTED THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. FOR SEVERAL YEARS WE HAVE COOPERATED WITH THE PRG IN REHABILITATION OF THE LIBERATED AREAS, AND THIS COOPERATION WILL NOW BE EXPANDED." END UNCLASSIFIED.

6. COMMENT: BEGIN LOU. SINCE TODAY (MAY 2) IS DE FACTOR HOLIDAY AT SWEDISH MFA, EMBASSY WILL ENDEAVOR NEXT WEEK TO OBTAIN COPIES OF BOTH PRIME MINISTER'S AND FOREIGN MINISTER'S SPEECHES. HOWEVER, ON BASIS OF PRESS ACCOUNTS, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT PRIME MINISTER HAS MOVED SHARPLY AWAY FROM THE ANTI-AMERICAN RHETORIC THAT CHARACTERIZED HIS VIETNAM SPEECHES IN YEARS GONE BY. END LOU.

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